

THE GATEWAY

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Int'l week hosts forum on climate change

MIGHAN POTKINS
News Staff

When Dr Jutta Brunnée first came to Canada from Germany in the 1980s to begin work on her Masters, she thought the biggest environmental problems we were facing, such as acid rain and ozone depletion, were well on the way to being solved.

"I recall at the time, meeting with a seasoned Environment Canada bureaucrat who told me that acid rain and ozone depletion really were nothing compared to the big environmental issue that we all would have to try to face up to, and that is climate change and global warming," said Brunnée.

"It's a sport in some places, including this part of the country, to diss the Kyoto Protocol and to say that Canada should never have signed on to it, that it's flawed."

DR JUTTA BRUNNEE

Brunnée spoke on the Kyoto Protocol last week as part of the U of A's International Week. She addressed concerns over the uncertain future of Canada's position on the protocol since the Montreal Conference on Climate Change in November and December of last year.

Canada has been debating the protocol since it was negotiated in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan. The protocol, which only entered into force in February 2005, is a basic framework that outlines commitments for developed countries, and some countries with economies in transition, to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions to five per cent below their 1990 levels by the year 2012.

Brunnée, now a professor at the University of Toronto's law school and the Metcalf Chair in Environmental Law, emphasized the magnitude of the challenges involved in developing a global regime to deal with something like climate change.

"It's a sport in some places, including this part of the country, to diss the Kyoto Protocol and to say that Canada should never have signed onto it, that it's flawed," she said.

PLEASE SEE KYOTO+ PAGE 4



ASHLEY SCARLETT

ONE RING TO RULE THEM ALL Firefly Theatre acrobat captured audience attention at the wrap up party for International Week Friday night. The colourful spectacle, entitled *Igniting the Human Spirit*, featured topsy-turvy circus acts, dancing and musical performances on the Horowitz stage.

Campus 'ideal locale' for thriving drug culture: Walton

Retired Calgary detective discussed Canada's move from drug-consuming nation to major producer

MIKE KENDRICK
News Staff

Students and local law enforcement officers were given the "dope on dope" Friday when a former undercover drug officer and best-selling author shared his experience with guests, giving those in attendance a heads up on the drug threats surrounding campus life.

"Today, most of the smoked [marijuana] is made right here in Alberta. At any given time, it's estimated there are 4000 illegal marijuana grow operations ongoing."

STEVE WALTON,
RETIRED DETECTIVE

Detective Steve Walton, a retired 25-year veteran of the Calgary Police Service and Sergeant in the Undercover Drug Unit, lectured audiences in Lister Conference Centre on his time on the force, aiming to raise awareness of the

trends and dangers surrounding popular drug culture, including sexual assault.

"I think we find a lot of predators [on campus] who aren't associated with the school," he said. "With so many young females around, they would seem like easy targets for cases of drug-related sexual assault."

Although drug trafficking and use has not dramatically increased in academic environments in recent years, Walton noted that the 18-24 age demographic found on campus is an ideal locale for the culture to thrive.

According to Statistics Canada, only one in ten cases of sexual assault are actually reported. In a sampling conducted by Walton during a 48-hour span on an October weekend in Calgary, 29 cases were reported, in which 16 of the cases involved some form of drug or alcohol present in the victims or the culprits, and 100 per cent of the victims were female.

Highlighting the use and production of drugs on campus, and especially the disturbing proliferation in the use of crystal meth in the Edmonton area, Walton's lecture went on to cover the details about the use, effects, and street jargon associated with the drug, as well as marijuana, cocaine, opiates (such as heroin), and phencycladines (PCP or



LAUREN JENNINGS

INFORMATION HIGH Steve Walton tells students about campus drug trends.

"angel dust"), offering advice on how to recognize and how to deal with suspected use in campus residences.

"Today, more than ever, you're going to see the impact of not only drugs, but the production of drugs," Walton said, adding that in recent decades, Canada has shifted from a drug-consuming nation to a drug-producing nation, most notably in marijuana grow operations.

"Today, most of the smoked [mari-

juana] is made right here in Alberta. At any given time, it's estimated there are 4000 illegal marijuana grow operations ongoing."

However, marijuana grow ops are less likely to be found in campus residences.

"(Marijuana grow ops) are difficult to hide," Walton said. "They have an odour about them, and to grow any number of plants would be difficult to conceal."

PLEASE SEE DRUGS + PAGE 4

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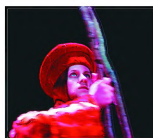
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Blair switch hit project

Volleyball Panda Jocelyn Blair learned to hit on both sides of the court and watched her successes multiply.

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You know you like it

Studio Theatre's ready to premiere their first production of the year, Shakespeare's *As You Like It*

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Amanda Ash

TEAM EFFORT

In the wee hours of the morning on Tuesday, 31 January, both Campus 5-0 and the Edmonton Police Services observed a wanted criminal lurking in a campus parking lot. Though the male, who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest, was a suspended driver, he was getting into his vehicle when the officers caught him off guard. The joint effort resulted in a successful capture, and EPS took man away from University property.

TRUCK-OWNER REVENGE

Between 6 and 7pm on Thursday, 2 February, Campus Security was informed that a red 2001 Dodge truck had been stolen from parking zone 84. After ruling out towing as the cause of disappearance, 5-0 officers proceeded to gather information from the victim of theft, who, in addition to losing his truck, lost his company's contracting tools, which he kept in the vehicle.

On Friday, 3 February, the sad man

spotted his beloved truck at a gas station near 63 Avenue and immediately contacted Campus Security. However, instead of waiting for their arrival, the true truck owner took matters into his own hands and attempted to reclaim the stolen property himself. He managed to apprehend the female passenger, but her male accomplice escaped his grasp and remains at-large. EPS are investigating.

LURKING LADY

On Saturday, 4 February at around 1am, constables noticed a familiar face wandering around the second floor of the psychology wing of the Biological Sciences Building. The 44-year-old female had been sent away for trespassing on University property in the past, and upon confronting the drifter, constables learned she was schizophrenic. The woman's family was contacted and she was transported to the hospital for assessment. The sick lady had no University affiliation.

SUCKY SPRINTER

On Sunday, 5 February, Campus 5-0 constables recognized a handful of previously trespassed hooligans loitering near 112 Street and 87 Ave. One male tried to escape the jaws of the 5-0 but was apprehended without incident.

Two of the wrongdoers, who had no University affiliation, complied with constables. The pair was in deep water due to a number of outstanding warrants and were immediately turned over to EPS for further action. The third perp was issued a summons for trespassing and was subsequently released. A fourth member of the group was lucky and got away without a hitch.

LOST AND FOUND

On Sunday, 5 February, Campus 5-0 was notified of a shifty male tramping around the fourth floor of Cameron Library. The shady character, described as wearing light-colored clothing and a sporting a beard, appeared to be lost, but once 5-0 constables arrived on the scene, he was nowhere to be found. However, later that day, the suspicious male was located near the south end of HUB Mall. It was discovered that he had no University affiliation, and he was given a warning for trespassing and booted off campus.

SCARY SLEEPER

On Sunday, 5 February, Campus Security received information that a scary-looking male was sleeping on the couches in the Students' Union Building. After realizing that the creeper had been seen in the area on a number of other occasions, the 5-0 proceeded to

investigate. When questioned, the trespasser explained that he was waiting for a friend, but, unfortunately, couldn't remember his 30-called friend's name. It was determined that the suspicious male had an extensive criminal record relating to violence and property crimes, and he was escorted off campus via the LRT.

BACKYARD BANDIT

On Sunday, 5 February, a concerned resident living near the Edmonton Research Station contacted Campus Security to report a group of suspicious persons wandering around the University Farm. When located, the crowd told 5-0 constables that a strange male was seen lurking in their backyard in the area of ERS and that he ran onto U of A property once confronted. In hot pursuit, the group was on his tail. The transient was bolting west down 117 Street and 62 Avenue when they lost him. The unidentified male was described as Caucasian, six feet tall, dressed in black, wearing white running shoes and sporting a black balalaika. The mysterious bandit was not located.

If anyone has information relating to any of these suspicious activities, don't hesitate to give Campus Security Services a call at 492-5950.

STREETERS

Yesterday, former Liberal cabinet minister David Emerson crossed the floor to the Conservatives and was named the Minister of International Trade in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's new cabinet.

Do you think that he should have to resign and run in a by-election after switching parties?

Joel Herder
Comp Sci IIILorin Yochim
Grad StudiesChad Fletcher
Engineering IVAaron Langen
Science Alumnus

It makes sense that he probably should. And looking back, Belinda Stornach probably should have as well. If he was elected as a Liberal, he was running with Liberal beliefs, and by crossing the floor, he changed the beliefs he's representing, and they may not be representing his constituents anymore. So he should run again just so he can touch base with his constituents.

No, I think it sounds like politics as usual in Canada, but trying to deny that it's the same as usual. I think Stephen Harper would like us to think he's doing something different, but in fact if you look at the moves he made in the new cabinet, it looks like government can do some times compromise with the reality of the diversity of politics in Canada.

No, Quite frankly, guys jump ship all the time. I can't say I'm in any way surprised. It's not like he's making any serious decision as far as the majority goes, so if he wants to change his personal politics, let him.

After what happened with Belinda Stornach, I figure turnout is fair. She dumped the Tories to become a cabinet minister, so arguably personal politics don't really matter when you get into the big power game of "they. I can be someone in the next government." So no, there shouldn't be a by-election, because that's the way it's always worked in Canada.

Compiled and photographed by Jake Troughton and Daniel Kaszor

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Diamonds are nobody's best friend: Bielawski

International Week forum debates negative effects of diamond mines on communities and environments around the world, even in reputable Canada

BY THE MORROW
News Writer

Canadian diamonds have been marketed to the consumer as "pure ice"—meaning child slave labour is not used for their excavation—but Dr Ellen Bielawski is not convinced by the label.

Bielawski, dean of the University of Alberta's school of Native Studies, along with Dr Philippe Le Billon of the Department of Geography and the Liu Institute for Global Issue at the University of British Columbia and Foreign Affairs Canada's Abdul Omar, discussed human rights violations and environmental issues regarding diamond mines nationally and internationally as part of last week's International Week.

Bielawski said Canadian diamonds are misrepresented as "pure and untainted like the barren lands they come from," when in fact she said they're disrupting the Aboriginal communities in the area by taking all of the educated labour out of the communities to live on the mine sites, often leaving entire towns to suffer socially. Furthermore, she said, these mines are disturbing and affecting many animal species, which may lead to extinction, and depleting fresh water supplies.

Because Canadians are unaware of the economic and social consequences of the national diamond trade, Bielawski argued that the Canadian trade is profiting from its false reputation.

"Consumers—that's us—looking for an alternative to blood diamonds—diamonds mined by women and child slaves—have fuelled a boom in the Canadian trade," she said.

While complaints regarding Canada centred mainly on environmental issues, talk involving Africa immediately turned to human rights and slave labour.

Le Billon pointed to the government's inconsistent involvement in the mining process in Botswana and



NEAL WILDING
FOREVER PLAUGUED WITH PROBLEMS Dr Ellen Bielawski talks about diamonds.

Sierra Leone, arguing that as a result, miners have become exploited and expendable.

"Citizens have to depend on the government to rectify the money raised, and then people have to pray the government is a good government," Le Billon said, adding that high levels of corruption in these governments can then lead to "shadow governments" where high officials will undercut the diamond industry for personal gains. "Therefore, if a government is not strong, this issue can often turn into territorial conflicts, state collapse, and war financing."

Omar offered some hope for combatting the human rights violations that occur internationally by outlining the United Nations' Kimberly Process, created in May 2002 by all 44 of the world's diamond-producing countries.

The process requires all diamond-producing governments to certify every exported diamond headed for the world market. In addition to certificates, governments are obliged to submit annual statistics on their diamond production.

"[This progress] is the single mech-

anism around which to deal with the problem of human rights and the diamond trade," Omar said.

"Many African governments are gaining control of the industry because of the Kimberly Process, and this facilitates peace within governments, as diamonds are not falling into spoils."

Le Billon offered a hopeful future for people in these conflicts, but asserted that the responsibility rests on consumers' shoulders.

"What we have to realize is that the problem within the industry was very well known, but ignored," he said. "It took public complaining and implementing UN sanctions to begin to make changes."

As for solutions to the Canadian diamond mine conflict, Bielawski said work and data are needed before we allow mines on our land. She added that it's the responsibility of Canadian consumers to get informed.

"We have a huge piece of a history where we have to deal with the issue of Aboriginal equality, because this has caused a lot of short-term gain and a lot of long-term pain."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled by Jake Troughton and
Chloé Fedio

ONLY TWO MAKE THE CUT

Though Students' Council had approved a sense of petition questions, only two of them will be going to the ballot during the Students' Union general election next month.

Plebiscites will be held to gauge student support for a campus-wide tobacco ban, as well as a fee of up to \$40 per year to build a new physical activity complex (PAC) next to the Van Vleet Centre. Petitions for both questions garnered the signatures of over five per cent of the U of A's undergraduate population, enough to secure their places on the ballot.

Reports to Students' Council by Rachel Woyonowski, the SU's Chief Returning Officer, said samples of just over a quarter of the signatures for each question were verified. It's estimated that the PAC question received just over 2200 valid signatures, while the tobacco question garnered just over 2100. Both numbers are well in excess of the 1436 required.

Fourteen other questions, each submitted by Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics student Chris Jones, will not be on the ballot. The controversial questions, which were approved

only after a Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board ruling ordered Council to reconsider its mass rejection of Jones's questions, died after Jones failed to pay a \$25 deposit for each of them, a requirement retroactively implemented by Council after Jones had submitted his questions. Two other questions are also dead for the same reason.

The PAC and tobacco questions may not be the only ones on the ballot, however. While the deadline has passed for any further petitions, Council may still add further questions at its meeting tonight. At least two such questions, both asking students to support increases to the University-administered Health Services Fee, are on Council's agenda.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS RANKED 98TH IN WORLD

After being unranked in 2005, the U of A's School of Business has been ranked 98th in the Financial Times' 2006 survey of the top 100 business faculties around the world.

The high-profile ranking, released last week, is dominated by American schools, but seven Canadian faculties made the cut. York University's Schulich School of Business, ranked 18th overall, topped the Canadian schools, just ahead of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

The only other Western Canadian program to make the list was the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business, down 16 spots from last year to 71st.

ENGLISH PROF NOMINATED FOR AWARD

U of A English professor Ted Bishop, already nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award last year, has been nominated for another prestigious—and profitable—prize.

Riding with Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books, a memoir of the time Bishop spent travelling on his motorcycle to visit literary archives around the world, is a finalist for this year's Draine-Taylor Biography Prize, worth \$10,000. The prize, awarded by the Writers' Trust of Canada, honours Canada's best work of biography, autobiography, or memoir each year. Bishop is one of five finalists, with the winner set to be announced on 1 March.

DON'T SPEAK

Though Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) at the U of A are actively engaged in spreading the word about global human rights abuses, members of the group will be tight-lipped tomorrow as they engage in a 24-hour vow of silence.

In conjunction with almost 20 chapters on campuses across North America, the group will stop talking at 12pm in recognition of people across the world who are silenced by abuses. The U of A chapter will have tables set up on Wednesday and Thursday in SUB to collect pledges. Some volunteers will be taking to facilitate the transfer of information—and money.

JHR was founded in May 2002 and works in Africa and North America.

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Drug expert hits campus

DRUGS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Walton said the bigger threat in recent years has been that of synthetic drug production labs, such as those that produce methamphetamines.

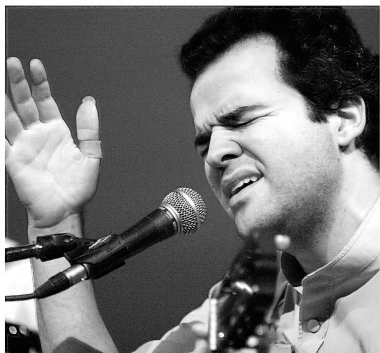
"Synthesis laboratories are the most dangerous. They're the most difficult to detect, and probably the most likely, I'm afraid to say, that you would encounter [in residence]," he said. "In an academic environment, you have access to those chemicals, and you have individuals who have the know-how to put those products together."

Walton's lectures have been a part of an ongoing program for the past six years, in which time he's talked to

campuses, police services, businesses, and other organizations where knowledge of the signs and actions relating to drugs could be of importance.

"Drug production is a trend," Walton said. "When I put this program together, I felt obliged to talk to you about it, because it's going on out there."

In addition to his lectures, Walton has also written numerous essays and two volumes in his own book series, *A First Response Guide to Street Drugs*, which have sold over 40,000 copies and serve as both quick references and in-depth databases on street drugs and culture.



BEN NEGLEY

SING IT, BROTHER Soulful songs were performed on Friday at the Horowitz theatre, yet another part of International Week's closing celebrations.

Kyoto's future uncertain: Brunnée

KYOTO • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the most vocal critics of Kyoto in Canada is Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, who has led the charge against Kyoto in favour of "made in Canada" solutions to climate change, citing the costly threat that Kyoto poses to business and industry.

"And now I guess the current discussion we seem to be reaching is, 'Should we get out of the Kyoto protocol?'" Brunnée said.

Brunnée acknowledged the inherent difficulties in meeting Kyoto targets. In order to do so, Canada will be required to reduce emissions by six per cent below what we were emitting in 1990. But since 1990 we have only been increasing our emission levels, so in actual fact, we will likely have to cut 25-30 per cent from where we are now, according to Brunnée.

Kyoto's critics have suggested that the measures necessary to comply with the protocol will be costly for industry and the Canadian economy, and Brunnée admitted the difficulties involved.

"One of the real problems for international environmental law is that it's not state action that fixes the problem," she said, emphasizing the importance of non-state entities, business and industry sectors to the success of the protocol. "Canada agrees to do something, but it can only do something if industry participates."

Furthermore, international cooperation is key, but not all countries comply to the accord. Both the United States and Australia have rejected Kyoto in favour of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development, a pact that seeks to address pollution by the sharing and development of clean technology, and Brunnée suggested



JUTTA BRUNNEE

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS Dr. Jutta Brunnée critiques Canada's role in Kyoto.

that, ultimately, the future is uncertain for the protocol.

"It's not out of the woods, obviously; there is, I think, significant commitment among the Kyoto parties for forging ahead, but there is also some wavering," she said.

According to Brunnée, things have become even more uncertain with regards to Canada's position on the protocol since the Montréal Conference last year. A new Conservative government

has increased concern over the future of Canada's position on the protocol.

"[Former Liberal Environment Minister] Stéphane Dion was the chair of the Montréal Conference and he was supposed to be the person carrying the torch and working into the future," said Brunnée. "And now we are a country that is not so sure whether it actually wants a future, or what kind of future, for the Kyoto Protocol."

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OPINION

Violence more serious than racist cartoons

THE WAR OF WORDS between Denmark and Muslim communities across the globe, propagated by the publication of blasphemous cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, is moving in an increasingly ugly direction. Several other European countries made the decision to reprint the controversial cartoons last week, causing further polarization between the two cultures.

The twelve cartoons, originally published by Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* in September 2005, were reprinted in a Norwegian magazine late in January, causing outrage throughout the Muslim world. But the issue is becoming more political as Middle Eastern countries are calling for boycotts of Danish products, which has already resulted in financial ruin for some companies. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia and Syria have recalled their ambassadors from Denmark, and Libya has closed down its embassy in Copenhagen in an effort to force the Danish government to sanction the newspaper that started this debate.

However, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has rejected Muslim demands for an apology, advocating freedom of the press—the same reason that prompted newspapers in France, Germany, Italy and Spain to republish the cartoons. And though the debate over censorship and abuses of expressive freedom continue, activists in the Middle East have added fire to their protests, torching Danish and Norwegian embassies in Syria and the Danish embassy in Lebanon.

In recent years, examples of intolerance towards cultural and religious practices—which is what the cartoons are said to be—have not only been directed at Muslims. In fact, one of the most controversial figures capturing headlines in newspapers internationally is a Muslim himself: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who took office last June. Not only has he campaigned to have Israel "wiped off the map" and continued a nuclear program that remains unpopular in the United Nations in this age of non-proliferation, but he recently announced his plans to hold a conference that will examine the validity of the Holocaust to determine whether it's actually a myth. And though Iranians and Muslim leaders have not condoned Ahmadinejad's initiatives, and even made meek attempts to rebuke him publicly, the reactions against this extremist leader are barely a whisper compared to the public outcry against the Danish cartoons.

While depicting the prophet is considered idolatrous by any Muslim and against religious practices, the cartoons were created in response to a Danish writer who, for that very reason, faced difficulty finding an artist for his children's book about Muhammad.

Clearly, the cartoons are offensive and comment on the propensity for Muslim activists to use terrorism in the name of religion. One depicts Muhammad with a bomb-shaped turban, while another has him crying out to suicide bombers waiting to be admitted to heaven. "Stop, stop," We ran out of virgins!" But violent protests in reaction to the cartoons are doing nothing but perpetuating this negative stereotype.

Editorial cartoons are generally of a facetious nature, and are certainly not meant to cause hostile diplomatic relations. This is especially so, since an independent press is just that—independent—and shouldn't, in an ideal world, regulate its content based on government influence.

Instead of burning the Danish flag, encouraging violent action against Danish troops in Iraq or any other aggressive action that has already taken place, or will take place in the future, perhaps the Muslim community should focus on promoting non-violence. What we need is a greater outcry against the Ahmadinejad's of the world, and the Muslim community should concentrate on that instead of twelve silly cartoons.

CHLOÉ FÉDIO
Deputy News Editor

LETTERS

The joys of irony—Paris Hilton indeed not a feminist leader

The Fuss Feminist Collective is absolutely charmed by Patrick Ross' critique of popular depictions of Paris Hilton as a feminist (Re: Paris Hilton is no feminist leader, 26 January), but we must point out, hopefully to his relief, that we were simply being playfully ironic in our Paris and Nicole poster campaign.

Previous campaigns have included Laura Bush in a similar vein: we just think it's fun to co-opt images like these for our own amusement and for good of shock value. That being said, we were warmed by Ross' thoughtful analysis of Hilton's so-called sexual liberation, and the role she and her cohorts play in shaping an unreasonable body image for young girls.

If we had the cash to spare, we might very well send him a subscription to *Bitch* magazine, that clever bastion of feminist response to popular culture. Cheers Patrick!

SYDNEY NEUMANN
TESS ELSWORTH
FUSS Feminist Collective

A few reasons that the PowerPlant is failing

The SU may wonder why the PowerPlant is consistently running a deficit, but if my experience there on Friday night (3 February) is any indication of a typical night, I'm surprised that they have any business at all.

I was out with a party of 30 or so people and we arrived at the Plant somewhere between 5:30 and 6pm, placing our orders almost immediately. Unfortunately, that was to be the only swift thing about the evening.

Many of us didn't receive our food until sometime after 7pm—over an hour after we had placed the order. A vegetarian friend of mine had ordered the veggie wrap, which, upon inspection, was found to contain pieces of chicken. This rather defeats the point of a veggie wrap, no?

Some of the other people we were with didn't receive their meals until 7:30, a full hour and a half after ordering and as the server was passing out the food, one of the managers came over to inform our table that we would have to leave in ten minutes because of the Friday night show coming in. My group hadn't even had a chance to take a bite out of their food, and they were already being chased out.

I realize that the PowerPlant may be understaffed, but there is absolutely no reason that getting a hamburger and fries should take over an hour. We may be lowly first- and second-years, but we're paying as much for our food as anyone else. To top off the experience, much of the food was cold, rendering it rather unappealing. Thoroughly disappointed with my dining experience, I stopped in SUB for a meal of pasta from L'Espresso to satiate my hunger.

SU-owned restaurants and bars can work wonderfully well; the fact that this incident, I had stopped



in for lunch with a friend at RATT, and we both received our hot food within 25 minutes of ordering. After a bad experience last year, I decided to give the PowerPlant one more chance, but they just ran out of chances in my book.

ANNA RAWLIK
Physics Ed II

You haven't been looking hard enough, Storrie

After reading Mr Storrie's article in last Thursday's issue (Re: Porn should make me feel dirty, 2 February), I must say that, quite frankly, I'm shocked. As someone who has been privy to many horrors of porn, I have to say that you are either an idiot, or a blatant attention whore.

Claiming you haven't seen disturbing enough porn lately is like saying you haven't been booted hard enough in the jingles as of late and are starting to forget how it feels. I'm sure that when you and your livejournal friends were having a circle cry and you got onto the topic of pornography it sounded like a good idea to complain about how porn was too vanilla nowadays. Not pushing envelopes and whatnot.

I'm here to tell you that with the Internet age, porn has transformed into a giant hydraulic tentacle raping a city. Now, in your search for porn you've probably accidentally watched half an hour of animal porn. Hell, everybody has at some point.

But a woman and a dog—or even the fabled woman and a horse—are but the base camp of terrible porn, where you acclimatize—or more accurately, forsake—your humanity before venturing further. It's not until you're knee deep in scat and amputation fetish sites (note that this is not war-amp porn but people

who actually want to have their limbs amputated while furiously jerking off with a hook hand) that you realize you've made a terrible, terrible mistake.

For those of you asking why I would go looking for such things, the answer is I haven't. You don't go looking for awful porn, awful porn finds you. It's like stumbling upon a cave of hidden pirate treasure and realizing that all Captain Red Beard managed to hoard was jars of his own semen and a four-foot long dildo nicknamed "The Great American Challenge."

So next time you're surfing the Internet and someone you thought was a friend says, "Hey, check this out," and you find yourself staring into the gaping maw of a man's asshole and realizing that the abyss is staring back, think of me, huddled in the corner and weeping for mankind.

CONAN PIERSE
Science III

Prusakowski needs to do his research

Ross Prusakowski's blatant condescension of Edmonton's "blue-collar" workers and the way they choose to entertain themselves (Re: "Rash" garners a blue-collar carnival, but here to stay," 31 January) reeks of academic snobbery and prejudice, but he is entitled to his opinions.

However, Mr Prusakowski did make one error that should not be overlooked. It is a common error that many people make. Many, quite mistakenly, assume that Edmonton's slogan "The City of Champions" is in reference to the accomplishments of our professional sports teams of the '80s. (Usually the Oilers and their former dominance of the NHL).

This is not the case. "The City of

Champions" is, in fact, a reference made by Mayor Laurence Decore to the city's response to the devastating tornado on "Black Friday," 31 July, 1987.

Mr Prusakowski's belittlement of this horrific title is an insult not only to the community members who came to the aid of those left in the tornado's wake, but those Edmontonians who were not so lucky as to survive.

Mr Prusakowski, please exercise more discretion and carry out more thorough research in the future.

KHEAN MURPHY
Psychology V

Smoking doesn't affect just you—we all pay for healthcare

In the 31 January Gateway letter "We're smokers, not lepers—please don't discriminate," Mr Hanson states that it is a "terrible injustice" for him to have to walk a few blocks out of his way to smoke a single harmless cigarette, just before he states that "we fascists" should stay out of his personal business.

Personally, I consider it a terrible injustice that while you're free to fill your lungs full of whatever chemicals you choose, a Canadian taxpayer, am forced to pay to keep you alive when those proven carcinogens you've so liberally decided to inhale—surprise—give you lung cancer. What isn't fair, Mr Hanson, is that while you, the smoking minority, have the choice of whether or not you want to smoke, we, the non-smoking majority, don't have the choice of whether or not we should foot the massive bill you'll no doubt rack up in a hospital some day—billions of dollars which burden the Canadian healthcare system annually which could be spent much more productively.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 6

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Apathetic Canadian youth leading to the demise of the lamppost flier

What once unified the nation's youth is now neglected—what's to be done?



MIKE SMITH

There's a very serious problem with today's youth, ladies and gentlemen: the problem of apathy. Young people are too disinterested in what is going on around them, and something needs to change. With the election just passed, you might think I'm talking about politics. But no, I couldn't care less whether you vote or not. I'm talking about apathy towards lamppost signs.

Those lampposts have been the single most important way for young people to connect to each other for generations, and now we're ignoring them. New-fangled things like "phonographs," "radio," "tee-see" and the so-called "Interweb" have caused young people to forget the truest form of advertising and organizing. Lampposts are the literal pillars of our voices as young adults. Not only are they visible, but they are tall and round, something no "computer" can claim.

Oh, I'm sure you're quick to dismiss them and their messages. I mean, what's an "All Ages Show at Generic Local Hall" when compared to the "All Jaihbait All the Time" that most websites seem to offer—at least whenever I'm surfing. We seem to have lost sight of what's important in life. The

posters that plaster your local lamppost are most likely dilapidated and old, tattered and abandoned. In fact, if you're a lamppost, you know your situation is desperate if your last poster involves the words "Student," "Organization" and "March" in any combination. All these poor posts can hope for is a quick end from a car's bumper. Can you live with that on your conscience? Can you?

Just a cursory sift through my e-mail inbox shows me that penis enlargement and invitations to join wholesome teens on "web cam" are popular at the moment. If we can get these guys to start posting on the lampposts, the youths are sure to follow.

Of course, the point is moot unless we can find a way to arouse the interests of youth to the plight of the lampposts. It's their civic duty to continue what our forefathers started, even if they don't remember why. One way is of course forcing them to do it. I mean,

right to smoke. Cigarettes will be available for many years to come, and if you choose to smoke, no petition or vote can take that away from you. It's simply about creating a healthy and pleasant atmosphere for those 96.1 per cent of students who do not smoke.

Although "majority rights" isn't the truest form of democracy, it is a reality in our country. It's the best way to make political decisions in a large population. Minority rights are always a concern with this issue, but again, your right to smoke isn't being taken away. You may not be able to choose where you smoke, but isn't this about the fundamental right to smoke? If the majority asks that the University protect them from the unpleasantness and ill-effects of environmental tobacco smoke, then let it be so.

MIKE KNAUER Arts II

We should ban smoking to protect the majority of students

Why would smokers think they aren't harming anyone when they smoke outside? (Re: "Point: University students can make their own decisions," 23 January.) If you exclude the almost 400 Canadians who die each year from second-hand smoke related to lung cancer, there are still those people with asthma who are directly impacted by exposure to second-hand smoke, inside or outside. Take an example from a student at the University of Calgary. Her asthma was so severe that she ended up leaving the university because tobacco smoke drastically affected her health and overall experience on campus. Is that fair? She left the campus for good. Were asking you to leave the campus for ten minutes. No one is trying to take away your

SHEREEN KANGAROO Leading effort to ban campus smoking Phys Ed III

Why stop at smoking? Let's ban alcohol, fat and sex from campus, too

I have a few ideas on how we can make this university safer and healthier on top of the smoking ban that has been proposed by Ms. Kangaroo (Re: "Student seeks campus tobacco ban," 26 January). First, how about jumping back on the bandwagon of prohibition by making this campus dry? I mean, alcohol in excessive quantities is bad for your liver and kidneys and is a main contributor to saloon-style bar fights (unfortunately, I have no statistical data on the annual number of saloon-style bar fights that occur in this province, but it's probably a lot).

Besides, according to the SU, only a minority of students on campus drink, and the PowerPlant isn't exactly

making a law that all events must be posted on a lamppost would certainly make more youths use them—but let's be honest, the only force that kids like these days is the left hand. On the other side of the coin, lecturing them on how important lamppost posters are will fall on deaf ears. I mean, judging by how many people show up to those cute anti-war marches, kids today already feel that lampposts are useless.

The only way to reverse this trend is to convince them it's cool. How, you ask? It all comes back to why so many people use computers instead of the old way: posts. Just a cursory sift through my e-mail inbox shows me that penis enlargement and invitations to join wholesome teens on "web cam" are popular at the moment. If we can get these guys to start posting on the lampposts, the youths are sure to follow. If there's one thing our generation likes, it's being trendy, and judging by how many of those e-mails I'm getting, big dicks and web cams are ultra-trendy. Hey, you don't see just a bunch of trendy musicians and actors involved as well to support the cause? We could give it a catchy and provocative name like the "Post Event Posters on Lampposts or Die!" campaign. Or, PEPOLOD, because everything should be an acronym. Come to think of it... this sounds like a lot of work. And honestly, I don't even think I care anymore. I think I'll just put up a poster suggesting people do it. I'm sure that will pan out.

performing well financially despite being the main campus bar, why not save some money and close it down?

Hey, and while we're at it, why not ban fast food from campus? That shit is bad for your heart, and we shouldn't be allowed to eat it if we're going to promote a healthy lifestyle on campus.

And since we're turning this university into a junior high, why not have class seating plans and detention? Oh! And no more condoms in the washrooms, we're not responsible enough at this age to decide when we should and shouldn't have sex with, so we should be discouraged from having it at all. Besides, STDs are a risk to your health and the best way to guard from them is abstinence.

Miss Kangaroo, we all know that smoking is bad for you, even us smokers know that, but we're all adults and most of us would quit if we could. But the truth is, smoking is an addiction and simply banning it from campus isn't going to magically transform every smoker into a virtuous non-smoker. If you have such a problem with it, how about, instead of trying to impose this ban on the entire campus, restrict it to the Phys Ed Buildings? I promise I won't hurt your lungs over there.

KYLE WIRTH Arts III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Canada should mine the moon—it has rocks

For the sake of dreams and glory, and in spite of the absence of a space program of any kind, Canada should set out for the moon



EVAN
SMITH

Well it's official, the Russians have beaten us again. Not in an economic sense, or a standard of living sense, but rather in the greatest sense of all; a bat-shit crazy sci-fi sense. Usually the Russians confine their bat-shit crazy sci-fi sense to modest pursuits such as putting a dog in orbit or building space stations, but don't sell them short. After all, they are the womb from which *Astrov* burst forth.

So what are they up to now, you wonder? Have they finally beat NASA in the quest for dehydrated water? Nyet, mes amis. You see, the Russkies aren't satisfied with the pursuits of mere mortals. They've got quite the track record to live up to. I mean, how are you supposed to top a dog in a space suit? The only thing cooler than that would be some kind of space mine—let's say on the Moon. But that still wouldn't be quite enough; you'd have to build it in say, less than 15 years. But that's crazy talk. In fact, it's bat-shit crazy talk.

That's right detectives, if you've used your secret decoder ring to analyze my jumbled thesis, you'll greet that the Reds have announced plans to have a working mine on the Moon by 2020. Take that caninemoat.

Basically the Rooks want to build the first permanent base on the Moon,

mine rich and tasty Helium-3, and then transport it back to terra firma via the ISS. It's more or less easier than it sounds. All you need is a couple rockets, a trillion or so dollars and a few pieces of technology that don't exist yet. It's like programming your VCR ... in space, and then mining it for cassettes ... in space. And I say we get on board.

The space program started out well on the tried and true basis of competition, wrapped in reprisal, wrapped in Cold War hysteria. But the space program has suffered in the past few years, specifically the television space programs. I mean, did you watch *Enterprise*? Who would win in a fight between Jean Luc and James T? I'll tell you who: not Archer. Sure, *Firefly* was quality, but like all great space programs, it either gets shut down or explodes. Though in *Firefly*'s case, I guess it did both. Now, without quality space programs to keep man's galactic manifest destiny tendency at bay, what's a boy to do? Go mine the fucking moon, that's what. Screw gravity; it's time to suck vacuum, and the Moon's just to place to do one-sixth of that.

Now the naysayers always wonder, "Why bother with space? What could there be in that expanse of sexy black satin worth the cost?" Well, there's Helium-3 and plenty of rock-shaped souvenirs. It may not seem like much, but just remember that North America was discovered when people decided they needed a faster way of getting pepper. Sure the monarchy could have spent their gold helping the homeless and educating the young, but if they

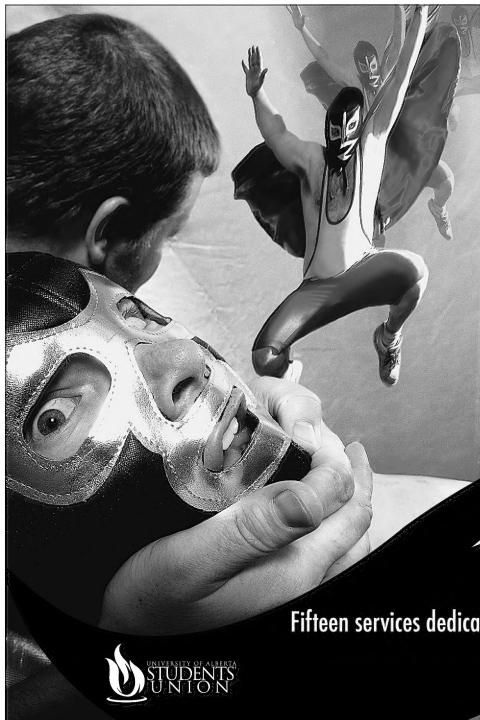


had, you wouldn't have been born, would you? And you like being alive, don't you? Well then you've got bat-shit crazy explorers who set out on new frontiers for vague reasons to thank.

And now you've got the Russians to thank. While we're content with sitting around thinking of ways to

perfect an imperfect species, they're preparing to hop out and set up shop in the only place less hospitable than their homeland. I love them for it. Maybe 2020 is about 50 years too optimistic; maybe the end won't justify the means; but maybe it doesn't matter. What matters is there are still people out there willing to talk

literally about the hypothetical, to do something so fantastical that the entirety of humanity can look up at the night sky and say "Wow." Right now, it's the Russians keeping the dream alive. But I think it should be us too. We should be part of the effort to make 2020 look like 2001 ... in space.



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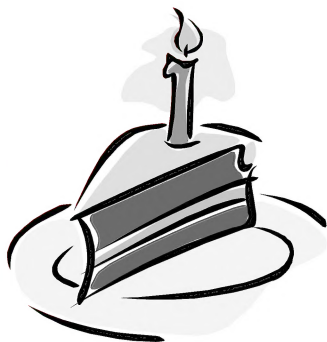
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University drinking breeds alcoholism

Despite its social acceptance, binge drinking can lead to serious problems



AMANDA
TERMEER

"We've all been there..." one student jokes to another, who's dealing with a brutal hangover. People laugh about colourful anecdotes referring to evenings spent hugging the toilet and urinating in public places. Even parents sigh and say, "Kids will be kids."

In our culture, excessive drinking can be both comedic and serious. The Barenaked Ladies bluntly refer to drinking as the "fine line between self-control and self-abuse." Even Johnny Cash also comments on "walking the line." Clearly, alcohol is a huge part of our culture.

Students drink for a variety of reasons, both positive and negative. Some are innocent and are celebratory in nature; these include passing midterms or celebrating Canada's new dictator — er, prime minister. Others drink to fit in or ease awkward situations. Drinking to mend a broken heart is also acceptable. Some binge drink to cope with stress. Alcohol has many uses.

The University of Alberta, in an attempt to relieve peer pressure, posts messages on drinking throughout campus: "Most U of A students (60 per cent) drink one to three drinks, or don't drink at all at parties and bars." Although the University acknowledges drinking, and uses peer pressure to encourage sobriety amongst students, the message also seems to lean towards a hypocritical assumption that academia could never succumb to such sins as substance abuse.

Here's another fact: the Harvard School of Public Health found that six per cent of college students meet the criteria for alcohol dependence (also

referred to as alcoholism), and 31 per cent meet the clinical criteria for alcohol abuse. The study found that more than two of every five students report at least one criterion of these conditions, putting them at increased risk of developing a true alcohol disorder.

On campus, binge drinking appears far more common than the more advertised problem of eating disorders. More vomiting appears to be done by drunken partiers than bulimics. Although I've experienced many intoxicated hobos on Jasper Ave, far more alcohol is consumed by those who can pay for cover. The only difference between binge-drinking students, bulimics and the homeless is that the students' weaknesses are mostly ignored, while the others are encouraged to get help.

Most university students are probably not alcoholics, but as the Barenaked Ladies stated, it's very easy to walk a fine line between acceptable behaviour and self-harm. Next time you have a few drinks, reconsider your motives.

Objections could be raised based on our shaky understanding of the causes of addiction—is it a question of genetic predisposition or of conditioning? The likely answer is a combination. Although drinking excessively during your university years won't necessarily create alcohol dependency, drinking out of anger, misery or low self-esteem could. Habits are formed through asso-

ciation, and if a link between alcohol and relief is made in your brain, it could become a potential problem.

Dr John Ewing created the simple CAGE questionnaire, an excellent alcoholic screening device. It asks four questions: have you ever felt you needed to cut down on your drinking? Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking? Have you ever felt guilty about drinking? Have you ever felt you needed a drink first thing in the morning (Bye-opener) to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover?

If you answered "yes" twice, you could have a problem; get help. Excessive alcohol consumption has many dangers. Spontaneous acts like one-night stands coincide with alcohol abuse. A lover's name may be forgotten, but not your new genital herpes. Long-term alcohol consumption can cause varicose veins in the stomach lining to swell, eventually bursting, causing internal bleeding. Bummer.

Are you ready to quit the habit? Unfortunately, the alcoholic can be worse off than a heroin junkie. The uncontrolled convulsions (delirium tremens) caused by alcohol withdrawal can actually kill. Korsakoff syndrome is found in many alcoholics: essentially, a lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine)—a result of drinking—and it can destroy specific brain functions. Psychological dependencies are also hard to break. For these reasons, professional help is necessary to get an alcoholic's life back on track.

Most university students are probably not alcoholics, but as the Barenaked Ladies stated, it's very easy to walk a fine line between acceptable behaviour and self-harm. Next time you have a few drinks, reconsider your motives. Having a problem is nothing to be ashamed of, and there are many places to get help—from Alcoholics Anonymous to Students' Union counselling services.

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SPORTS

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Hockey Bears shell Thunderbirds in series sweep



ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

It's tough on any hockey team when the scoreboard doesn't accurately reflect the quality of their play. And as the UBC Thunderbirds can attest after last weekend's series against the U of A, it's even tougher when the scoreboard says that the game was a blowout.

Despite playing decent hockey on Friday night and having extremely strong goaltending on Saturday, UBC lost the games 8-1 and 4-1, respectively. Alberta winger Tim Krymusa, who scored four of the Bears' eight goals on Friday night, didn't want to undervalue the Thunderbirds as an opponent.

"We knew today we had to play hard," he said on Friday. "They were on a pretty good streak coming in here, so we knew they'd be coming out hot."

Bears head coach Eric Thurston also gave UBC credit for their Friday-night effort, and put the win on his stellar net-play of Aaron Sorochan, who made 14 of his 24 saves in the game's second period.

"We were able to get a good score, but I don't know that the score was really indicative of the game," said Thurston. "They played hard and if it wasn't for our good goaltending at the start, it could certainly have been a different game."

On Saturday, it was UBC's goalkeeping that stood out, even though the Thunderbirds' hopes to steal a win and even up the weekend were spoiled.

Gerry Festa had a rough night on Friday, letting in five goals before he was replaced, but he shone on Saturday, facing 48 shots from the Bears and being named the night's first star.

"I thought Festa was great [on Saturday]," said UBC head coach Milan Dragicevic. "This was a tough game to swallow, because we had such excellent goaltending. When you have a

performance like Festa gave tonight, you should come away with at least a point.

Festa himself was also disappointed with the results—Saturday's in particular.

"We had that fight in us today that we didn't have yesterday," he said. "It was 2-1 until there was five minutes left, but if the puck had bounced in for us, it'd have been a totally different game."

"[Friday] was tough; those chances were going in," he said of his own performance. "[Saturday], I came with the same focus and I was a little bit sharper, I guess, on making some of those saves."

That fight the players had in them wasn't entirely figurative; the other distinguishing feature of Saturday's play was how violent it was, and how many penalties were called. At the end of the second period, the fighting deteriorated into a full-on brawl, putting blood on the ice and a total of seven players in the box.

Both teams say they suffered from the high number of penalties.

"They played really physical, and got us in some penalty trouble, but when we finally stayed out of the box, we took the game," said Alberta forward Dylan Stanley, who scored the Bears' first goal of the night and was given a two-minute penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct in the second period.

"I thought we took some selfish penalties," Dragicevic said. "I had a hard time trying to figure out who was taking what penalties. I was kind of questioning not really the officiating, but just how they came to the conclusion of some of these calls."

"I didn't understand it, but it's a game, and it goes both ways. You take the good with the bad."

The Bears will continue their hunt for more of the good this weekend when they head to Lethbridge for a pair of games against the Pterodactyls.

A PERFECT WORLD The Bears pushed their at-home unbeaten streak to 41 games against UBC.

BEN BRIGLEY

Cold-season, Wesmen, catch up with Pandalas volleyball team in series split

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

A flu bug that worked its way through the Pandalas volleyball team during the past week translated into bugs in the Pandalas play on the court over the weekend and spoiled the homecoming of the freshly returned Janna Konihowski, as she and her teammates played out of sorts on both Friday and Saturday night, splitting their weekend series with the unranked Winnipeg Wesmen.

The fourth-ranked Pandalas' 3-1 Friday-night win could just as easily have gone the other way, as the team played out of sync until early in the fourth set, where they found themselves down 9-3 against a hungry Winnipeg team. Behind the strong play of second-year outside hitter Jocelyn Blair and fifth-year players Konihowski and Tawana Wardlaw, the Pandalas reeled off an impressive 11-3 run, then held on to take the set and the game 25-22.

After initially deciding to focus solely on the shot put, where she's ranked first in Canada West this season, Konihowski was recently talked into returning to the volleyball team by Pandalas head coach Laurie Eisler. In playing her first game at home and only her third with the Pandalas this season, Konihowski didn't think a lack of familiarity on the court with her teammates was the cause of the Pandalas' problems on Friday night.

"I think it just took us a while to get going," she said after recording 16 digs in the win. "I've played with everyone on the floor except Tasha [Holness], so it's not a big change from last year."

Pandalas head coach Laurie Eisler agreed with Konihowski, saying that the roots she has formed with her teammates over the last five seasons run deep.

"It's always an issue, bringing someone in to your team, but it helps when you have a player

that's been with us almost a full five years prior. The only one that hadn't played with her was Tasha, and they don't really affect each other with their position on the court," she said. "When you've got an experienced player coming back, it's a much more seamless transition."

Eisler chalked up her team's less-than-stellar performance to the toll that the flu had taken on the Pandalas.

"We've had a tough week at the office. We had a flu bug go through the team and we haven't had that group together since last week in Saskatoon and I think it showed at times," she said. "I'm really proud of the composure they showed. I thought we did a good job of sticking with it."

The Pandalas' troubles continued on Saturday night, in an all-around odd game. After controlling the later stages of the first and third sets, Alberta left their lead slip away both times and lost in extra points, 28-26 and 26-24, respectively. They averaged each loss with convincing victories in the second and fourth sets, 25-16 and 25-15, only to be dominated in the fifth set, losing 15-10.

"That fifth set is tricky because it's so short," Eisler said. "In the fifth set you get a little lead and it's really hard to come back. [Winnipeg] played great; they played the way they had to play to win that match. In volleyball you don't have to play really well the whole time, just at the right times, and we didn't do that enough to win."

Wesmen head coach Dianne Scott said that despite the lopsided scores in the sets that the Pandalas won, she was happy with how her team played.

"Even though in the second and fourth we lost by larger margins, when we played well we played very well and we just lost too many points in streaks," she said. "We had to play to win and not worry about [losing]."



IN THE LINE OF FIRE Janna Konihowski (centre) returns a serve on Saturday night in the Main Gym.

SHAHED MERRANI

Scott credited fifth-year middle Kristin Briscoe, who racked up a game-high 20 kills, and the play of first-year left side Marlee Bragg in the Saturday night win.

"I thought [Briscoe] stepped up huge in the fifth set. She got some kills and big time blocks when we needed it. [Bragg] has carried a big load for us and she's done a great job," she said.

"There's both ends of the spectrum with her; sometimes you get a dominant game and sometimes she's making errors that are first-year errors. But she doesn't have a choice—she has to play. We need her and that's her capable of it too."

The Pandalas wrap up their regular season on the road against Simon Fraser University this weekend.

Pandas' Blair comfortable as team's number-one option

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

While the flu bug worked its way through the Pandas volleyball team last week, it was the infectiously energetic play of second-year Panda Jocelyn Blair that got the Pandas their Friday-night win, and kept them competitive on Saturday against a Winnipeg team that was playing with their season on the line.

With the Pandas top option, fifth-year outside hitter Tawana Wardlaw, still feeling the effects from said flu, Blair became the team's hitter of choice this past weekend and answered the call, picking up 34 kills while proving to be virtually unstoppable at stretches of both games.

After a quiet rookie season with the Pandas, the 6'1" St Albert product, who's listed as a left-side player, credits a summer spent on Team Alberta for her increased productivity this year.

"I played in the Canada games in the summer and I got experience playing right side, so I got experience playing a total different aspect of the game. Playing year-round helped me develop my skills," she says.

"She's taken a step from last year to this year in the starting role, and at times she's been absolutely dominant," says Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler. "It's exciting to see her involved, and there's still tons of room for her to develop."

As the Pandas program bid farewell to Wardlaw on Saturday night, who played her last regular season home game, it was fitting that Blair

had her finest performance of the season, giving the Pandas faithful a new face that they could expect a similar style of play from in years to come.

"[Wardlaw has] definitely had an influence on my mental game. She's been a role model for me, especially last year when I was just a rookie on the team," she says, noting that she had to step up in Wardlaw's absence. "I thought personally this was one of my best weekends. Tawana was sick all week, so I had to step up and play a bigger role, so I knew I was going to be getting more sets. I was able to step into the role and finish it off."

"She's a fighter. She's a real competitor, and someone like that, down the road, she can really be a leader in this program."

LAURIE EISLER,
PANDAS HEAD COACH,
ON JOCELYN BLAIR

As potent and complete as her game is offensively (she ranks second on her team in kills per game and first in Canada West in service aces per game), Blair's value to the team is doubly important because of her defensive contributions. The 24 digs she made this weekend bolstered her season average to 2.44 per game, second-best on the team.



ABSOLUTE POWER Jocelyn Blair (right) leads the conference in service aces in her second year with the Pandas. JOHANN BROWN

"She dug some good balls in the fifth set [on Saturday]; she played well the whole match," Eisler says. "It seems like with her, every match she's getting better and better. For players like that you never want the season to end, because you never know how far they're going to go."

With three more seasons in front of her, Blair's ceiling as a Panda could be as high as she wants it to be. Her confidence and competitive nature is obvious every time she takes the floor. She seems to feed off of crushing the opposition's spirit by squeezing a tough kill through a block, or

making a key defensive play when no one expects her to. Eisler is excited to see how the next three years play out for Blair.

"She's a fighter. She's a real competitor, and someone like that, down the road, she can really be a leader in this program."

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EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE Jerome Bettis called it a career on Sunday, after he won a boring NFL championship.

Superbowl an XL disappointment

The NFL's biggest game of the season was unable to live up to all the hype



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports
Commentary

Though it may seem hard to remember through the haze of time or the hang-over lingering from this year's contest, it was but a year ago that the game and the players actually managed to be the focal point of the Super Bowl and ended leaving fans entertained.

One team was on the cusp of the first dynasty in the salary-cap era, the other looking to parlay the acquisition of an ill-tempered and injured receiver into their city's first championship in a quarter century. The amount of excitement and intrigue was abnormally high and the total of artificial storylines mercifully low.

It's amazing what a difference a year makes, as this year's fans were left to yearn for the preceding match-up. The 2006 edition boasted far less on-field substance to create interest around. Instead, Super Bowl XL only had an avalanche of stories focusing on the absence of the nearly perfect Colts and dynastic Patriots, the Super Bowl finally heading north after years on the Sunbelt circuit and the game's Roman number finally matching the shirt-size of most of the NFL's fans.

It was slim pickings to say the least, and the centering of the media spotlight so firmly on off-field stories didn't bode well for the game to be a classic, or even an entertaining

edition of the Super Bowl. Given the two weeks of hype leading up to the game and a pre-game show of epic duration, it's hardly surprising that the game turned out to be far more fizzle than flash.

The opening half was one for the purists. Full of mediocre play, with Seattle aptly moving the ball downfield, but having all of their drives halted well before they threatened to create excitement. Pittsburgh looked like they'd written down the game time as 7pm Pacific and were still back at the hotel, waiting for the bus to the stadium.

Given the two weeks of hype leading up to the game and a pre-game show of epic duration, it's hardly surprising that the game turned out to be far more fizzle than flash.

Football's biggest game of the year was nothing close to entertainment for the millions tuned in to the game and handful of people actually paying attention to what was transpiring on the gridiron. Across Canada, it was an opening half of football whose only impact was to underline the depression that Global was once again blocking out all US ads in Canada. Then, to make it worse, the network again chose to subject viewers to the same

three ads and regular clips of Kevin Newman for the duration of the game; acts of this nature are usually considered cruel and unusual punishment in even the most uncivilized of societies.

As tedious as the first half was, the score was close enough to at least create a speck of interest in how the game would end, and to its credit, the second half managed to not completely disappoint. With a few more touchdowns, an interception, a record rush and a flea-flicker trick play, it actually managed to boast plays capable of capturing the interest of the average fan. And yet, thanks to the running clock and ability to cling to the football forever that are traits of the NFL, there was no suspense in the last part of the game, as it was apparent that the Vince Lombardi Trophy would be bestowed upon the Pittsburgh Steelers.

It was an anti-climatic end to a predictable game and the mediocre hype that had surrounded the contest since the teams were set, meaning that Super Bowl XL won't go down as being extra large in any respect, except in terms of overblown expectations and massive disappointment. Come Monday morning, aside from the jubilant Steelers fans and the dismayed Seahawk faithful, only a handful of football purists who revel in the technical side of football will regard this game as worth a second look. As for the rest of the fans, we'll only be able to reminisce that the game gave meaning to the lyrics from the Rolling Stones half-time act: I can't get no satisfaction.

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Canada

As You Like It set to take stage with Studio Theatre



As You Like It

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Dean Gilmour
Starring Shannon Blanchett, Matt Busby, Molly Flood, Nick Green, Arlen Konopaki, Jesse Martyn, Shawna O'Connell and Jacqueline Russell
9-8 February
Timms Centre

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Entertainment Editor

For a group of student actors, putting on any kind of stage production can be a stressful affair. Not only is the budget limited and schedules tight, but when they decide to tackle a famous classic instead of a relative unknown, they're also putting themselves up to a high standard, with their performance to be judged by the paying public. Those thoughts were on the minds of University actors as they prepared their staging of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

"There is that high standard because it's Shakespeare," says Jesse Martyn, who plays the jealous and scheming Oliver. "And certainly with *As You Like It*, which is one of his comedies that is performed often, people might have in mind a production they've seen and have certain expectations.

"It's also challenging because the text we're dealing with is almost a foreign language," continues Martyn. "There's a challenge to make sure the audience knows what's happening, so we put a lot of work into making sure that the key words and important parts of the speeches pop out. It's important that even if the audience doesn't understand every word or joke being told, they still understand what is happening and they get the dynamics between the characters."

As You Like It, Shakespeare's gender-bending tale of love and jealousy, is set to be Studio Theatre's first production of 2006. While it looks like the cast and crew have overcome

many of the obstacles that are inherent in producing Shakespeare, much of that can be attributed to the help of the play's guest director, Toronto's Dean Gilmour.

"He's won a lot of awards and has produced a lot of amazing shows that have toured internationally," says Martyn. "The way that he's approached this show is sort of the ideal way of doing Shakespeare, in my opinion. He has a strong sense of the physicality we're looking for, but sometimes when an exciting young director comes in they miss out on the text, which is obviously the backbone of Shakespeare. What's great about this show is that [Gilmour] combines a keen sense of creating beautiful images on stage while still having those images serve the text and tell a story."

With Gilmour—an instructor at Toronto's Humber College—at the helm, this particular staging of *As You Like It* seems to be set to stage a picturesque performance of a classic work. Performing a comedy, however, is always a hit-and-miss affair no matter how well planned the production is. Martyn concedes that a comedy is in many ways more taxing than a straight drama, but has prepared especially for delivering jokes and playing out the humour on stage.

"There's a big seductive force to play the comedy," says Martyn. "It's the sort of thing that often feels good to do in rehearsal, but ultimately kills the humour on stage. I had an acting teacher tell me once that comedy is tragedy at a thousand times the speed. The desire that the characters have is just as intense they would have in a tragedy, but they go to far in what they do."

Hopefully, though, Studio Theatre's production of *As You Like It* will end up being a comedy in its own right—at least the way Martyn describes it.

"A Shakespearean comedy really is a different type of comedy," states Martyn. "For Shakespeare, comedy basically means everything works out well in the end."

WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE? Studio Theatre will kick off 2006 with *As You Like It*, premiering this Thursday at the Timms Centre. The play is guest directed by renowned Canadian director Dean Gilmour.

Farm boys of Agriculture Club are reaping what they've sown

Agriculture Club

with Elliott Brood and Profundo Rosa
Saturday, 11 February at 8pm
Sidetrack Café

PAUL BLANOV
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With the number of alt-country acts afoot in Canada, one begins to wonder about the integrity of songs written by city kids about rural life. Calgary's Agriculture Club, however, has a more "country" upbringing than most of these acts combined. This alt-country act isn't another bunch of city kids.

"I come from a farm, from three generations of prominent, agricultural people," says the Rubber Duck, Agriculture Club's resident guitarist/vocalist. "That stuff's in my blood, and I'm not writing about it because I need a topic to write about. One minute these songs aren't in my head, and then the next minute they're there."

"When I talk about sitting on the tractor, I've actually done it," he adds. "Lots. Too much. That's why I left the farm and went to college."

The Duck, along with vocalist/guitarist Waylon Nelson, bassist Gordon Leadfoot and new drummer Billy Ray Virus are in town to play some tunes off of their latest album, *The Horse Always Gets it First*, on the same bill as fellow country boy Corb Lund. Having toured their unique brand of music, equal parts country and punk rock, around for the better half of a decade, you would expect that they'd draw huge audiences to each and every show around their hometown of Calgary. That isn't exactly the

case.

"Alberta's music scene is going through an identity crisis right now," says the Duck. "All the scenesters in both towns want to get rid of the rural image as much as they can. In Calgary especially, the scenesters all want the city to really be another Toronto, another Vancouver or another New York."

"I met this one kid who got off work and drove like mad for an hour and a half into Québec City for our show. He barely spoke any English, but he knew all the words to all my songs ... We did not expect that."

THE RUBBER DUCK

Having an army of hipsters effectively snubbing you could be lethal to a band that's already too country for the punks and too punk for many country fans. But the Duck remains optimistic, based on what he's currently seeing.

"Things are changing," says The Duck. "The last couple of shows here in Calgary have been sold out, lined up at the door. Maybe that has something to do with us being at this for eight years now. There are a few more bands like us, so shows are a bit easier to put together. We aren't rockabilly, but we mesh with that scene, and that scene has really expanded in Calgary



over the last four or five years. So there's a definite shift in from when we started."

While audiences are looking better at home for the Agriculture Club, they aren't limited to just their local city, as they discovered on their recent Canadian tour. The group found that some of their most rabid fans exist in the most surprising places.

"I met this one kid who got off work and drove like mad for an hour and a half into Québec

City for our show. He barely spoke any English, but he knew all the words to all my songs, and there was a bunch of Québec kids wearing their Social Distortion t-shirts who totally knew our records. We did not expect that."

Given the pockets of rabid fans coupled with critical acclaim—"In all the years we've only had one negative review," says the Duck—"The Agriculture Club should start expecting more.



Transgender troubles in *My Own Wife*

I Am My Own Wife shows the struggles of a cross-dressing Holocaust survivor

I Am My Own Wife

Written by Doug Wright
Directed by James MacDonald
Starring John Ulyatt
The Citadel Theatre

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's not often that one-man plays are tackled, and when they are, middle-of-the-road performances simply don't exist; they're either outstanding or abysmal, and that's that. In a one-man show, although a tremendous amount of baggage is undoubtedly heaped onto the shoulders of a lone actor, the script and setting must also pull their weight by presenting an entertaining story and voice a sense of spirit. And should one element falter even the slightest bit, the whole show could ultimately unravel back into the threads it worked so hard to weave.

As harrowing as it may seem, the Citadel's current one-man production of *I Am My Own Wife*, written by Doug Wright and directed by James MacDonald, is forced to shimmy its way onto one end of the theatre-rating spectrum. But thanks to a skillfully crafted script and probably one of the best acting performances of the year, *I Am My Own Wife* easily slips into the blue-ribbon category.

Given the fact that *I Am My Own Wife* relies solely on the talents of one actor, there's no better thespian to wear the labourious shoes—and

heeled women's shoes, in this case—than renowned Edmonton performer John Ulyatt. Ulyatt plays a total of 35 incredibly different characters, including the main role of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a German transgendered man who survived both the Nazi and Communist regimes. The play travels through the thick and thin of Charlotte's life, going all the way back to her boyhood years spent with a lesbian aunt, as well as flashing forward to her later years as an antique furniture collector who incessantly pursues sexual liberty.

Charlotte is compared to an antique collection throughout the play, just one of many such relationships hidden in the script. The parallels that occur between script and stage are wonderfully arranged, and the simplistic set—consisting of a couple embroidered stools, an old-fashioned table and a polished armchair—effectively conveys the delicate nature of her life. With few props to distract and a backdrop only lightly sprinkled with grandfather clocks, all eyes remain fixed on the captivating Charlotte.

For the character herself, John Ulyatt doesn't need more than a black dress, some pearls and his innate talents to captivate an audience. The "tranny granny" comes alive onstage as soon as Ulyatt opens his mouth, flawlessly speaking in a sweet, German accent reminiscent of all of our beloved grandmothers. And aside from the impressive ability to

shift from one character to another, Ulyatt also makes his so-called multiple personalities distinctly different, a psychically challenging task that is sure to leave him confused about his true self for months to come.

Acting may seem the hardest feat to conquer in a one-man show, but in all honesty, the script is truly the be-all-and-end-all of the production. Doug Wright uses his own personal experience as the catalyst for the play, rather than simply recreating the complexity of Charlotte. Wright interviewed Charlotte for two years during the '90s, and during the long hours he spent digging up her past, he uncovered a darker and somewhat untruthful side to his frail hero. Embellishment was a roadblock Wright had to overcome, and he did so quite nicely by composing the play as a sort of memory collage. The script is deep with emotion, tragic-yet-comedic, and as a result of the perpetual paradoxes that streamline throughout the play, a sort of tension emerges that can only be experienced through a man wearing a black dress.

All knit together in *I Am My Own Wife* is a multi-award winning play, an incredibly talented actor, and a stage setting that dazzles in all of its plainness. The production is as beautiful as a lightly embroidered blanket, and while you'll certainly walk away with a warm fuzzy feeling inside, you'll undoubtedly want to slide under the theatrical shadow once more as soon as you leave.

Describing a band's music is always a dicey task, but in the case Red Shag Carpet's latest album *Lift and Drop*, it's even more so. The Edmonton band boasts such a unique sound that it's nearly impossible to drop their style into any one particular genre. However, if a collage of pictures could describe the alt-rockers' sound, then it would look like a grease-stained motor superimposed upon dusty streets and red balloons.

That is, undoubtedly, a bizarre image to think of, but with four band members writing and singing their own stuff, the album really resembles one big bag of fresh trail mix. For example, the vocals in "Star of Your Film"

are reminiscent of the downy and dirty style of Foo Fighters' frontman Dave Grohl, but at the same time, an upbeat and jovial accompaniment makes you wonder whether he's about to whip out some balloons and start a party. In addition, other more mellow tunes like "Overtop" seem only appropriate to listen to while walking on the grit-covered back roads of downtown Edmonton, all the time wishing you driving a beat-up truck through the open country.

Being such a diverse record, Red Shag Carpet is sure to appeal to everyone. It's a wide range of sounds, to be sure, but if your down with a clash of styles, *Lift and Drop* is a worthwhile investment.

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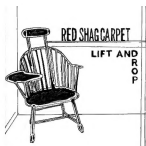
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Bluebeard an opera for the eyes

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Bluebeard's Castle & Erwartung
Directed by François Racine
Starring Susan Marie Pearson and Jason Howard
7 and 9 February at 7:30pm
Jubilee Auditorium

RYAN KENNY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When it comes to the opera, the thought of spending a perfectly good evening listening to a fat lady stoging in a foreign language likely doesn't appeal to very many of us, and to be honest, the image at hand isn't far from the real thing. In *Bluebeard's Castle & Erwartung*, the star of the night was a rather hefty lass and the volume of her Hungarian and German singing dominated the orchestra backing her up. It's safe to say, however, that when director Robert Lepage conceived the staging of this double bill, he was focused on all elements visual, not auditory, making for astounding images that will please opera fans and impress newcomers.

Robert Lepage's talent as a director is recognized worldwide, and his aptitude for the stage shines through in this production. A transparent screen fills the inside of a huge gold frame sitting at the front of the stage. The majority of the action takes place behind it, giving viewers a sense they are watching a bizarre film play out live before them. The stage is raked (sloped upwards) and the walls are tapered inward, allowing the director to play with perspective and visually immerse the audience.

Bluebeard's Castle plays out like a dark fairytale, with Judith, Bluebeard's bride, exploring his castle in attempt to understand his mysterious past and



true nature. As she enters the dark castle for the first time, viewers get their first taste of the amazing lighting and composition they are in for. Dungeon-like bars form long shadows on the huge stone wall as the characters enter. Seven locked doors project their keyholes from across the stage and Judith, understandably, wants to know what's inside. As *Bluebeard* reluctantly begins to hand over keys, viewers feast on stunning lighting effects projected through the doors as mysteries are revealed. In terms of the story—which is relayed above the stage in English subtitles—it gets a touch slow and predictable after a few doors swing open. In the end though, sticking through the sluggish sections pays off with surprises that just may lead to soiled trousers.

After a 30-minute breather, the audience is immersed into the unstable mind of "the woman" in *Erwartung*,

who is hysterically searching for her lover, who she eventually finds dead in the forest. The possibility of her responsibility lingers throughout the piece, and while the text is more difficult to grasp, this short opera moves much faster and generates even more memorable images than its predecessor. In one of the most impressive moments of the entire production, actors defy gravity while sitting and crawling along the large sidewall. While it would be impossible to mention all of the jaw-dropping moments, the image of a nude man rolling in slow motion towards a pool of water should be odd enough to peak the curiosity of even a first-time operagoer.

While the opera can be a daunting experience to the uninitiated, a fun and visually stunning production like *Bluebeard's Castle & Erwartung* is the perfect piece for both the opera veteran and rookie alike.

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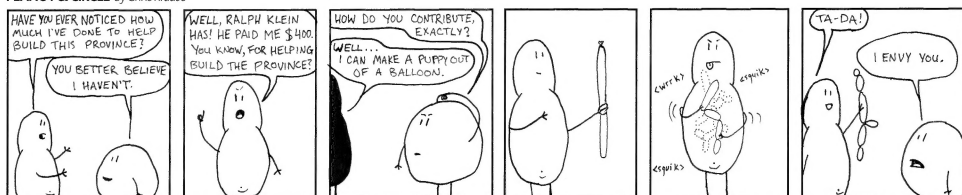
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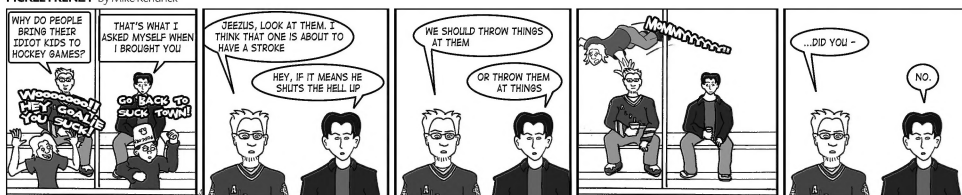
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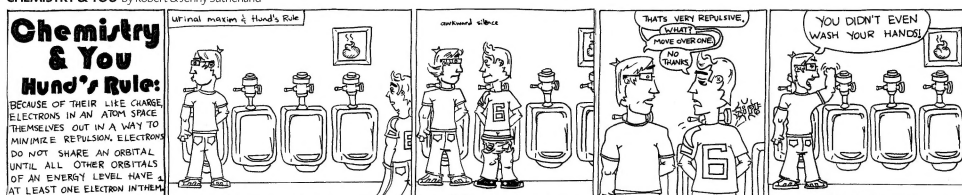
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Aides needed for early evenings and weekends. Must have experience with children or special needs, obtain (upon hire) criminal record check, child welfare check, first aid and CPR. Fax 488-6664 or e-mail humanresources@familylinkages.ca your resume.

Are you looking for a high paying job with gratuities that will work around your class schedule? Then you are the perfect person to join other U of A students already on the team of catering assistants, at A Cappella Catering. Job specifics include serving, bartending, and driving. A valid drivers license is required. Interested students can apply by fax to: 454-9542 or by e-mail to: kim@accapella.ab.ca Attention: Kim.

YMCA Child Care Services hiring pt child care programmers. Shifts available are M-F 7-9pm and 3-6pm. Minimum of 4 hours per week. Starting at \$8.25/hr. Free Y membership. E-mail resume to

cabel@edmontonymca.ca with availability and preferred location, north/west/south. Get teaching experience. Tutor wanted in St Albert. 5 hr after 4 Call Daria 460-7391.

Program asst. required to work with children aged 5 to 12. Great opportunity for students with classes later in the day, especially those studying education, recreation or drama. Located in McKee Elementary School, 5 to 8 minutes from U of A. Could lead to afternoon shifts and/or full-time summer employment if desired. E-mail docebel@hotmail.com.

Only takes 5 minutes a day. Receive up to \$720 a day. Surf 12 websites a day. Hard to believe but true. www.gethealthynow.com. Perfect for ed students! Childcare center near U of A requires enthusiastic PT staff. \$8.50 starting. 7-9:30am, 3-5:45pm or Thurs 12-5:45pm. Call 434-7754 or 905-9416.

EMPLOYMENT - TEMPORARY

Piano/Voice/Guitar instructors required for busy music school. Please fax your resume 464-4547 or e-mail lessons@pinpointations.com.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Make a world of difference! Volunteer overseas with Youth Challenge International on a hands-on development project for 5-12 weeks. Ready to go next month? Next summer? Visit www.yci.org to find out more!

PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial 44-PARTY Ads. Jokes, stories and MORE! Free Local Call. 18+ Ladies-railways free! Guys from 521mutiler! 1st time callers get free trial with ad code: 4283. Meet new people - make new friends. Try it NOW! (780) 44-PARTY.

EVENT-O-TRON 3000

Campus events and more...

MD Ambassadors presents U of A Medical School Info Session on 7 February, 2006 from 6-8pm in Bernard Snell Hall, University of Alberta Hospital. The evening's agenda takes participants through the medical school application process, including an overview of the U of A MD program, a presentation from the Career Counselling Representative on interview objectives, and a small group Q&A session with current medical students. Participants will also get a sense of what it is like to be in the admissions interview itself. For more information, check out www.msa.ualberta.ca. For more information, please contact 492-7639 or visit www.msa.ualberta.ca.

EO73 is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. EO73 does not publish events that are on-going or not open to the public. We only accept free events. The Gateway reserves all right to edit all entries for length and clarity. All submissions must be made online. To place an entry in EO73, please go to www.gateway.ualberta.ca/hbk.

The Gateway's Sex Issue



Tuesday, February 14

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We offer:

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Located in the U of A Bookstore, main floor, SUB
Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Poll Clerks (150 needed)

- Work part-time on 4 voting days (March 8, 9, 23, 24)
- Set up, supervise and take down polling stations
- Wage : \$8.00/hour

EXTENDED DEADLINE : February 15, 2006 @ 1700

Application forms are available at the SU Information Booth in SUB and at 2-900 SUB

More information on these positions and other Students' Union job postings can be found at this website: www.su.ualberta.ca/work/sujobs